

Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2007-2008**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) first compiled and analyzed data for the development of the Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan (SPP) utilizing the expertise of internal personnel. A draft along with the data was reviewed with the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC). RISEAC advises the Commissioner and Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education on matters concerning: (a) the unmet educational needs of children with disabilities; (b) comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities; (c) advises the Rhode Island Department of Education in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the IDEA; (d) advises the RIDE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring Reports under Part B of the IDEA; and (e) advises the RIDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. Membership of the committee is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities birth through 26 maintain the majority of the Committee Membership. The Membership also includes individuals with disabilities, teachers, representatives of institutions of higher education, private schools, charter schools, state and local education officials, administrators of programs for children with disabilities foster care and homelessness, vocational, community or business organizations, juvenile and adult corrections and State Child Serving Agencies. The SEAC reviewed the draft and provided suggestions and input. These were incorporated into the final copy of this document.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part B / General Supervision

Indicator –: 16: Percent of signed written complaints with reports issued that were resolved within 60-day timeline or a timeline extended for exceptional circumstances with respect to a particular complaint.

62%

Measurement: Percent = $[(1.1(b) + 1.1(c)) \text{ divided by } 1.1]$ times 100.	62
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FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 - 2008	Target set by Secretary at 100%

Actual Target Data for 2007-2008:

62% (61 reports with findings, 38 within 60 days)

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for 2007-2008:

Slippage was caused by changes in complaint procedures and the adjustments necessary to complete those changes along with turnovers and reduction in staff. Slippage was also caused by human error in calculating timelines, multiple findings were within sixty-one days (two months to the day) rather than sixty days.

Improvement Activities/Timelines/Resources:

New procedures that are now in place have worked to insure that all complaints are handled within the required timelines, and parents and districts receive opportunities to work through any issues outside of the due process system. These new procedures include a second person tracking timelines, timelines beginning only after all necessary documentation is received from the complainant, and providing districts and parents with an additional opportunity to resolve the dispute prior to the initiation of the complaint process. In addition, technical assistance offered by OSEP and other regional technical assistance groups, such as the Northeast Regional Resource Center, will be utilized to insure improvements over the complaint system for the following years.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for (2007-2008)
not applicable